

## SHORT COMMUNICATION

*Nomada signata* Jurine (Hymenoptera: Apidae) in Wales. – *Nomada signata* is a cleptoparasite of the common mining bee *Andrena fulva* (Müller). Nesting of the host occurs in light soils in warm and sunny situations, particularly along well trodden paths, on lawns and other short cropped or sparsely vegetated areas. The host, *A. fulva*, is particularly common in parks and other suburban areas but it would appear that *N. signata* does not favour these situations (Falk, 1991; Fowles, 1996).

In the past, *N. signata* was rare but widespread in the southern half of Britain being recorded from eighteen vice-counties, but in recent times it has become very rare and is accorded RDB2 status. Both Falk (1991) and Fowles (1996) refer to only three post-1970 records for this species, Falk stating "This species has declined greatly, with post-1970 records confined to three sites in S. Hampshire, Herefordshire and Glamorganshire". However, the decline, though alarming, may not be as great as Falk and Fowles intimate as it has been recorded from several other vice-counties (M. Edwards pers. comm.). Certainly this is the case for south Wales with a number of recently reported occurrences.

In Wales, *N. signata* has to date, only been recorded from Monmouthshire (vc 35) and Glamorganshire (vc 41) with the greatest concentration of records from suburban areas in the Cardiff district. The species was first recorded from Wales around 1897 by R. C. L. Perkins at Raglan Vicarage in Monmouthshire. It was further recorded from this county at Abergavenny on the 15.v.1992 by Robert Paxton. Paxton also recorded it from Bute Park, Cardiff on the 5.v.1987 and again on the 21.v.1987. He again recorded the species in the Cardiff district on the 1.v.1988 and 18.iii.1993, the latter record from a suburban garden. During 2002, numerous visits were made to Bute Park by the author but only a single male *N. signata* was recorded, though its host was very common. On the 4.v.2002 the author was recording aculeates on the mountainside above the village of Cwmbach near Aberdare, Glamorgan, when he took a male and female of this species flying among *Erica* and *Vaccinium* in company with *Bombus monticola* Smith and *Andrena wilkella* (Kirby). Its host at this site must be very scarce and localised as I have recorded within this area for over ten years and have never seen it. The full set of Welsh records is summarised in the table below.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to R. Paxton, Zoologisches Institut, Universität Tübingen, for sending his records of this species and to M. Edwards for his comments on the subject. – P. M. PAVETT, Department of Biodiversity & Systematic Biology, National Museums & Galleries of Wales, Cardiff CF10 3NP.

### REFERENCES

- Falk, S. 1991. *A review of the scarce and threatened bees, wasps and ants of Great Britain. Research and Survey in Nature Conservation*. No. 35.  
 Fowles, A. P. 1996. *A provisional checklist of the invertebrates recorded from Wales. 2. Aculeate wasps, bees and ants (Hymenoptera: Aculeata)*. Nature Conservancy Council, UK

### Summary of Welsh Records

35	Raglan Vicarage	SO40	c. 1897	R. C. L. Perkins
35	Sugar Loaf Mt, Abergavenny	SO277180	15.v.1992	R. Paxton
41	Bute Park, Cardiff	ST171778	7.v.1987	R. Paxton
41	Bute Park, Cardiff	ST171778	21.v.1987	R. Paxton
41	Cardiff	ST197777	1.v.1988	R. Paxton
41	Cardiff, Cathays	ST178787	18.iii.1993	R. Paxton
41	Bute Park, Cardiff	ST173777	3.v.2002	P. M. Pavett
41	Cwmbach, mountain	SO027032	4.v.2002	P. M. Pavett